

Title: EAR OF ARRICORN

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The lone stranger
dismounted from his
mammoth hordax, shaking
the heavy drops from his
cloak. The cave he had
entered was small, its
capacity barely providing
shelter for his beast
from the deluge that
poured from the angry
sky outside. He ventured
deeper into the cavern to
find room enough to
remove his rain soaked
garments. Stepping
through a stony portal,
he found himself suddenly
bathed in the warm glow
of a tallow fed lantern.
Upon his entry into the
cave seven pairs of
shocked eyes turned in
his direction.

'Argh! A thief is here to
take our gems!' cried one
of the little men as he
thrust his shovel in the
stranger's direction. 'You
try it, and I'll cut your
eyes out and feed them
to the snails!' 'Hold your
blade, you grumpy old
fool!' called one of the
others, 'this nice man
might be here to help
us.' 'Nice man?' retorted
the other, 'If you were
not such a dopey twit
you would recognize him
as a ShadowLander. He
helps no one but himself.'
'What shall we do, Doc?'
call one of the others,
too bashful to show his
face in the light. The
small man who appeared
to be in charge stepped

forward to size up the stranger. 'Well, judging from all that trouble we had with that female a while back, I'd say we could save ourselves a pack of trouble and just put a pick up side his head right now!'

Suddenly, six shadowy figures leapt forwards. In a flash, the lone stranger's dark blade appeared in his hands. Quietly, it whistled through calm air, practicing its deadly craft. In the blink of an eye, six small heads fell cleft from six small frames. The last midget, the one slowest in wit, made a tasty morsel for the stranger's hordax...